

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/772,957

Examiner

Brian M. Healy

Applicant(s)

BYERS ET AL.

Art Unit

2883

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 02/05/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Brian Healy

Brian Healy
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Typical examples of the prior art includes Fishkin et. al., U.S.P. No. 5,265,186 which teaches an electronic shelf device (Figs.1-3) including, a slidable circuit board 21 that are received in an electronic shelf with a coiled optical fiber 26 and fiber connector 30 being connected to a fiber faceplate 31 and a movable latch 23 being attached to a railing 61 to lock the circuit board in place.

Neither Fishkin et. al. 186' or any of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed electronic shelf comprising: circuit boards slidably received in the electronic shelf; a front faceplate attached to a first circuit board, the front faceplate having a recessed wall that defines a rearward extending recess between a bottom edge and a top edge of the first circuit board, an optical fiber connected to the first circuit board; a bail mounted adjacent the front faceplate, the bail being movable from a seated position to an extended position; means for holding the optical fiber at an intermediate location along a length of the optical fiber at a first location on the bail; the optical fiber having a first position that is contained within the rearward extending recess with the bail in it's seated position; the first portion of the optical fiber being pulled forwardly from within the recess and away from the front faceplate with the bail in it's extended position. (recited in independent claim 1 and also similar scope claims 7 and 19). Dependent claims 2-6, 8-18 and 20 include the limitations of the aforementioned independent claims along with other additional limitations (See dependent claims for specific limitations.) . Thus

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claims 1-20 are patentably distinguishable from the teachings of Fishkin et. al. and all of the cited prior art of record.

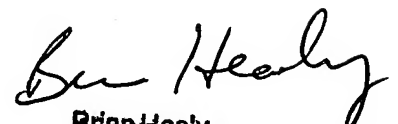
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian M. Healy whose telephone number is (571)272-2347. The examiner can normally be reached on Compressed schedule Tues.-Thurs. 7AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571)272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brian M. Healy
Primary Examiner
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Brian Healy
Primary Examiner